

# Bagram News Express

*Fighting Terror, Building Peace*

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## DFAC dedicated to fallen Airman

By U.S. Army Capt. Elizabeth Casebeer  
Task Force Cinnacatus Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan** — In a sea of digital camouflage, he definitely stood out amongst the crowd of mostly-Army service members, and those who knew him best often tried to top one another in stories.

'He' was Senior Airman Jonathan A. V. Yelner - a Coalition warrior, an Airman and a friend, and he was killed instantly, April 29, when an improvised explosive device detonated underneath his vehicle after conducting a battle damage assessment with local Afghan tribal leaders outside the village of Bedreau in Tag Ab Valley, Kapisa province, Afghanistan. Now, his name will be honored for years to come here.

On July 6, a Bagram Air Field dining facility was dedicated to the fallen Airman. Flanking either side of the walkway is a sign depicting the brief timeline of the events that day and of a snapshot of Yelner right before a mission, grinning from ear to ear.

Several high-ranking officers, non-commissioned officers and more than 200 fellow service members attended the dedication and there was hardly a dry eye during the ceremony.

Airman Yelner, who was affectionately called



**BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan** — Air Force Lt. Col. William D. Andersen, Kapisa-Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team commander, salutes U.S. Army Col. Jonathan Ives upon uncovering the sign dedicating a Dining Facility on Bagram Air Field to Senior Airman Jonathan A. V. Yelner. (U.S. Army photo/Army Capt. Elizabeth Casebeer)

"Wingnut" by his team, because they say the senior airman rank resembles the wingnut at the end of a screw, already had a deployment to Iraq under his belt when he volunteered to redeploy, this time for one year.

So, again he departed Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., and, this time, with a Provincial Reconstruction

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## Even little standards need to be followed

By Lt. Col. Lester Ball  
CJTF-101  
Equal Opportunity Program

**BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan** — Do I really need to tuck in my PT shirt when I'm out walking? I like to turn under the cuffs on my ABU sleeves. What's

the big deal? I see lots of people wearing their sunglasses on top of their head. That's not a major issue. Who cares whether I salute when I'm wearing PTs? We're deployed.

We have bigger things to worry about than such trivial stuff.

Only a couple times have I used

my government travel card for personal purchases. I usually clear my weapon when I come back from a convoy. I wasn't the one who put nuclear weapons on a B-52 and flew it from Ellsworth to Barksdale.

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## YELNER from Page 1

Team headed to Afghanistan. His team, commanded by Air Force Lt. Col. William D. Andersen, was comprised of Airmen and Soldiers from around the country.

Army Capt. Casey McCausland clearly recalled driving Airman Yelner to his Friday-night temple services and how the younger man would act a bit cocky on the ride to and from. It wasn't until the team arrived in Afghanistan, after nearly two months of training, that Captain McCausland noticed how much Airman Yelner was beginning to excel.

"He volunteered to go to Tag Ab Valley as my driver," said Captain McCausland, who acknowledged the majority of his team is comprised of tactically-trained Soldiers, a group of men used to "roughing it" on forward operating bases. This did not seem to deter Airman Yelner, who jumped on board and

quickly proved himself worthy.

"After about a month in Tag Ab, we came back to BAF to rearm and refit," said Captain McCausland. "People noticed in that short amount of time how Yelner was more on-track, a different person. He just carried himself better."

Indeed, the team counted on Airman Yelner - a model Airman, who took his job as a driver in a particularly dangerous part of Afghanistan very seriously.

"We could always count on the kid to have the truck ready way ahead of time," said Captain McCausland. "He took pride in getting the truck ready, filling the radio, and other things outside his duty description. Even though he was not a gunner, he took time to clean the crew-served weapons."

It's been more than two months since Airman Yelner was killed and Captain McCausland is not sure anybody can come close to filling



**BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan**  
— The Senior Airman Jonathan A.V. Yelner Dining Facility was opened July 6 on Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, amongst a crowd of fellow service members. (U.S. Army photo/Army Capt. Elizabeth Casebeer)

the Airman's boots.

"The cohesion we had as a team—it's just not the same anymore," he said sadly.

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## STANDARDS from Page 1

Does this sound like a stretch to you? Is this a grand leap of logic?

Consider that General George S. Patton, Jr. once said, "If you can't get them to salute when they should salute and wear the clothes you tell them to wear, how are you going to get them to die for their country?" He also said, "You cannot be disciplined in great things and undisciplined in small things."

As I have walked around Bagram Air Field, I have noticed many Airmen violating standards. When I have made tactful corrections, responses have varied. Some have said, "Yes, sir" and made the correction.

Others have reacted differently. One staff sergeant dutifully uncuffed his ABU sleeves and then

shoved his sleeves up to his elbows to finish his lunch. An Airman running past me on Disney Drive acknowledged my correction and tucked in his PT shirt then defiantly pulled his shorts halfway down his buttocks as he kept running.

Our local standards are published in CJTF-101 Standards, paragraph 12, Air Force Personnel Standards. I encourage you to read, comply and enforce these standards.

Some Airmen think such things are trivial. I ask what such instances indicate about our Air Force culture. Are we undisciplined? Do our sister services view us as slackers? Do our core values have mean-

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**"You cannot be disciplined in great things and undisciplined in small things."**

**- Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.**

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## STANDARDS from Page 2

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ing? Do little infractions lead to bigger infractions? Are there some people in the Air Force who believe the rules don't apply to them?

What happens when our officers and NCOs turn a blind eye? Is our NCO corps diminished by tolerating such behaviors rather than enforcing standards?

General Patton also said, "It is absurd to believe that soldiers who cannot be made to wear the proper uniform can be induced to move forward in battle. Officers who fail to perform their duty by correcting small violations and in enforcing proper conduct are

incapable of leading."

Granted, he was talking about soldiers, but does the same apply to Airmen?

The Air Force has been in the news quite a bit lately. Our secretary and chief of staff resigned. Our process for awarding a new tanker contract has been declared flawed. A former group commander in Texas has been sent to prison. A JAG colonel is being court-martialed.

Maybe we should start taking standards more seriously, even the little ones.

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## News Briefs

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### SEVENDUST CONCERT

"Sevendust" will be performing live at the MWR Clam Shell on 12 July at 2000L/1530Z.

### TOBACCO CESSATION

Break free from tobacco addiction to start "living life." A six week, six session tobacco cessation program will begin 23 July at 1530L/1100Z at Task Force MED. The program is open to all U.S. Military, DoD civilians, and Coalition Forces. For more information, contact Dr. Reynold D'Lima and Maj. Van Orden at 481-6887.

### LODGING INSPECTIONS

Lodging personnel will be doing a walk-through of the RLBs on 14 July. They will be checking the condition of furnishings. Lodging personnel will coordinate with 1st Sergeants to work around those few folks who might be on crew rest, or those who work nights.

### FIRE ALARM ACTIVATIONS IN RLBs

When the fire alarm is activated in the RLBs please contact the Fire Department at 911. All residents must evacuate the facility until the Fire Department determines that it is safe to re-enter. The rally point for personnel in these facilities is around the Route 5/6. Keep the street in front of the RLBs clear for the emergency response vehicles and their operations.

### COMBAT O

Combat Orientation is Thursday at 0900Z/1330L at the Enduring Freedom Chapel. This is a mandatory briefing for all Air Force personnel assigned to Bagram Air Field. Newcomers must attend the briefing within a week of their arrival. Accountability is tracked and

will be forwarded to the 1st Sergeants at the end of the Week.

### COMBAT PUSH

Combat Push times are Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Camp Cunningham Rec Tent from 0900L/0430Z to 1000L/0530Z. Services, Comm and PERSCO will be available to sign outprocessing checklists. Personnel must complete your Post Deployment Health Questionnaire on-line and pick up your medical records at Flight Medicine/Public Health before coming to Combat Push. For more information call 431-4409.

### ATTENTION ALL JUNIOR NCOS

The Bagram AF Route 5/6 meets Thursdays at 1800L/1330Z at Camp Cunningham's Town Hall. The meetings are open to all staff sergeant selects, staff sergeants and tech sergeants. Contact Tech Sgt. Scott Snedeker, 431-4404 or Staff Sgt. Tamesha Cobb, 431-4404 for more information.

### MUSIC NIGHTS

Stop by the Camp Cunningham Recreation Tent to listen to your favorite genre of music...there's something for everyone. R&B Music Night is Friday at 2100L/1630Z. Country Music Night is Sunday at 1800L/1330Z. Salsa Night is Monday at 2030L/1600Z.

### CONSERVE OUR RESOURCES

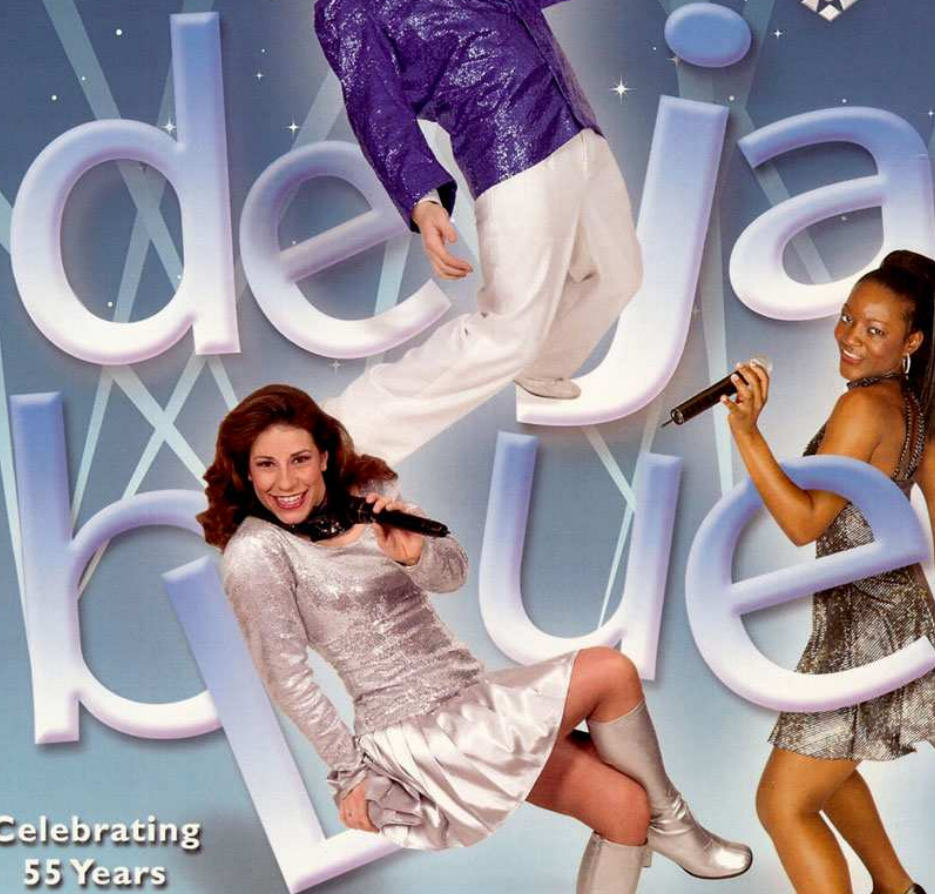
Turn off Chigo (AC) units when not in your living area for an extended period of time. Turn off lights when not in use. Doing so will help conserve the amount of energy that we consume from our BAF power plant. Also, minimize the use of water during your daily operations. Three minute combat showers are in effect.



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